

## RESOLVING FISCAL CLIFF

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, people have no idea what we're doing because we don't know what we're doing. It reminds me of being in traffic: we all hurry to get to where—to another bottleneck and to wait.

Resolving the fiscal cliff is an opportunity to show that we can work together in a bipartisan manner; but to do so, we must listen and put the people first and the party second. If we don't, a middle class family of four will see their taxes rise by \$2,200 in 2013. Unemployment will go up to 9.1 percent.

Remember, the cost of extending all of the Bush tax cuts is \$2.4 trillion in 10 years. Extend the middle class tax cuts and let the Bush tax cuts for the upper 2 percent return to the Clinton rates. We cannot sacrifice the middle class, the steady job growth that we've seen just to protect the upper 2 percent. This is not the message we want to send, and this is not the message Republicans want to send.

## ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I joined my colleagues in the Connecticut delegation in Newtown last Sunday night. We will never forget that vigil—the despondency, the anger, the hopelessness. But over time, that emotion turns into the imperative that we act as public officials to make sure that this never happens again.

We have so much to do in a Nation awash in guns, and not just guns, but guns that are designed for the explicit purpose to do nothing but to kill lots of people quickly, in a Nation that celebrates violence as a solution and as entertainment, in a Nation that does not do enough to address the needs of its mentally disturbed.

One thing we should do right away, though, is put to rest forever the pernicious fantasy that more people carrying arms will make us safer. That's not backed by fact. It's not backed by data. It's not backed by history. It is a testosterone-laden fantasy. A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in a suicide or a murder or violent assault than it is likely to be used in self-defense.

The RAND Corporation studies show that police officers trained in a situation of an exchange of gunfire hit their intended target less than two in 10 times—trained police officers. Ladies and gentlemen, more guns do not make for a safer America.

## COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LAWS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, yesterday my office hosted the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and I met with families whose lives have been devastated by gun violence, families who lost loved ones in Columbine, at Virginia Tech, at Aurora, and in other incidents. No words of mine could ever match the pain that these families felt as a result of these losses.

The recent tragedy in Newtown, unfortunately, is the most recent in a long series of mass killings involving guns. But this incident is especially horrific because it involved the slaughter of 20 innocent children and their teachers. This must mark a turning point in the debate over commonsense gun safety laws. It's critical for lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to commit themselves to do everything we can to end this violence because commonsense gun laws aren't Democratic values or Republican values; they're American values. And if our values as Americans mean anything at all, then surely all Americans are entitled to enjoy their lives and live in neighborhoods that are safe and free from gun violence.

There is lots of talk about a national conversation, beginning a dialogue. The time for talking is over. Now we must act: banning assault weapons and high-capacity assault clips, fixing our criminal background check system, and closing loopholes that allow 40 percent of gun sales to go forward without background checks.

□ 1230

## RECENT DECREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, in view of what has happened in Newtown, Connecticut, it is important to place on the Record the fact that our Nation has been experiencing the largest reduction in State mental health services of this generation. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, States have cumulatively cut over \$1.8 billion from their mental health services between 2009 and 2011. This is the largest reduction in State mental health services in half a century.

With 1 in 17 people in America living with a serious neurological condition, how is this tremendous decrease in funding possible or humane?

Often, those who suffer the most are angels of destiny. According to a report from the Federal Bureau of Justice statistics, more than half of our country's prison population suffers or has suffered from mental disorders, but only a fraction of that population receives treatment during their incarceration. And, in fact, individuals with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of crime than the perpetrators.

Newtown is a national tragedy, Madam Speaker, but it reveals again

our shared responsibility to support and treat those in this country who need our help so desperately. I urge our colleagues to support a more constructive Federal role in assuring proper and early diagnosis and intervention of affected youth and appropriate treatment.

I congratulate President Obama and Vice President BIDEN for their leadership in moving our Nation to a better day for us all. So many of us here in Congress wish to join them in this great national challenge.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

## REFERRING QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA TRUST CLAIMS TO COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 668) to refer H.R. 5862, a bill making congressional reference to the United States Court of Federal Claims pursuant to sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, the Indian trust-related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah) as well as its individual members, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 668

*Resolved,*

## SECTION 1. REFERRAL.

Pursuant to section 1492 of title 28, United States Code, the bill (H.R. 5862), entitled "A Bill relating to members of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma (O-Gah-Pah)," now pending in the House of Representatives, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a determination as to whether the Tribe and its members have Indian trust-related legal or equitable claims against the United States other than the legal claims that are pending in the Court of Federal Claims on the date of enactment of this resolution.

## SEC. 2. PROCEEDING AND REPORT.

Upon receipt of the bill, the chief judge shall—

(1) proceed according to the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, notwithstanding the bar of any statute of limitations; and

(2) report back to the House of Representatives, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) findings of fact and conclusions of law that are sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the Indian-trust related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and its tribal members for compensation as legal or equitable